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Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/225, the present report addresses the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway). It contains an analytical account, among other things, of the implementation of the priorities of the small island developing States, as identified in the Samoa Pathway, and the various themes highlighted in the resolution, including activities by Member States and the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, as appropriate, taking into account the work carried out by the organizations of the United Nations system as well as all relevant national, regional and subregional organizations.

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I. Introduction

1. The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), the formal outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Samoa Conference),[1] was endorsed by the General Assembly in November 2014 (see resolution 69/15). In its resolution on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy adopted at the same session (see resolution 69/217), the Assembly reaffirmed the outcome document and, among other things, recalled the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States contained therein and stressed the need to ensure its effective implementation, monitoring and follow-up. This reaffirmation and call were reiterated by the Assembly in 2015 and 2016 (see resolutions 70/202 and 71/225).

2. In September 2015, the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), containing 17 Sustainable Development Goals that represent global aspirations, covering the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development that are universally applicable to both developed and developing countries. The Assembly has since consistently recalled the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, as identified in the Samoa Pathway and in the 2030 Agenda, and repeatedly called for their effective implementation, monitoring and follow-up (see resolution 70/202, paras. 2 and 4; and resolution 71/225, paras. 2 and 5).

3. The present report is divided into four main sections, including a brief introduction and conclusion. Sections II and III present an account of the progress made towards furthering the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, including, among other things, the implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Samoa Conference. Also included in the narrative are activities directed at addressing the vulnerabilities and priorities of small island developing States and at integrating or mainstreaming the Samoa Pathway and 2030 Agenda into national and regional development policies and cooperation frameworks. The report further elaborates the monitoring and follow-up activities undertaken during the reporting period. In compiling the report, the Secretariat solicited information, including through questionnaires, from Member States, the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the relevant national, regional and subregional organizations. The contribution of Nauru was the sole submission from a Member State.[2]

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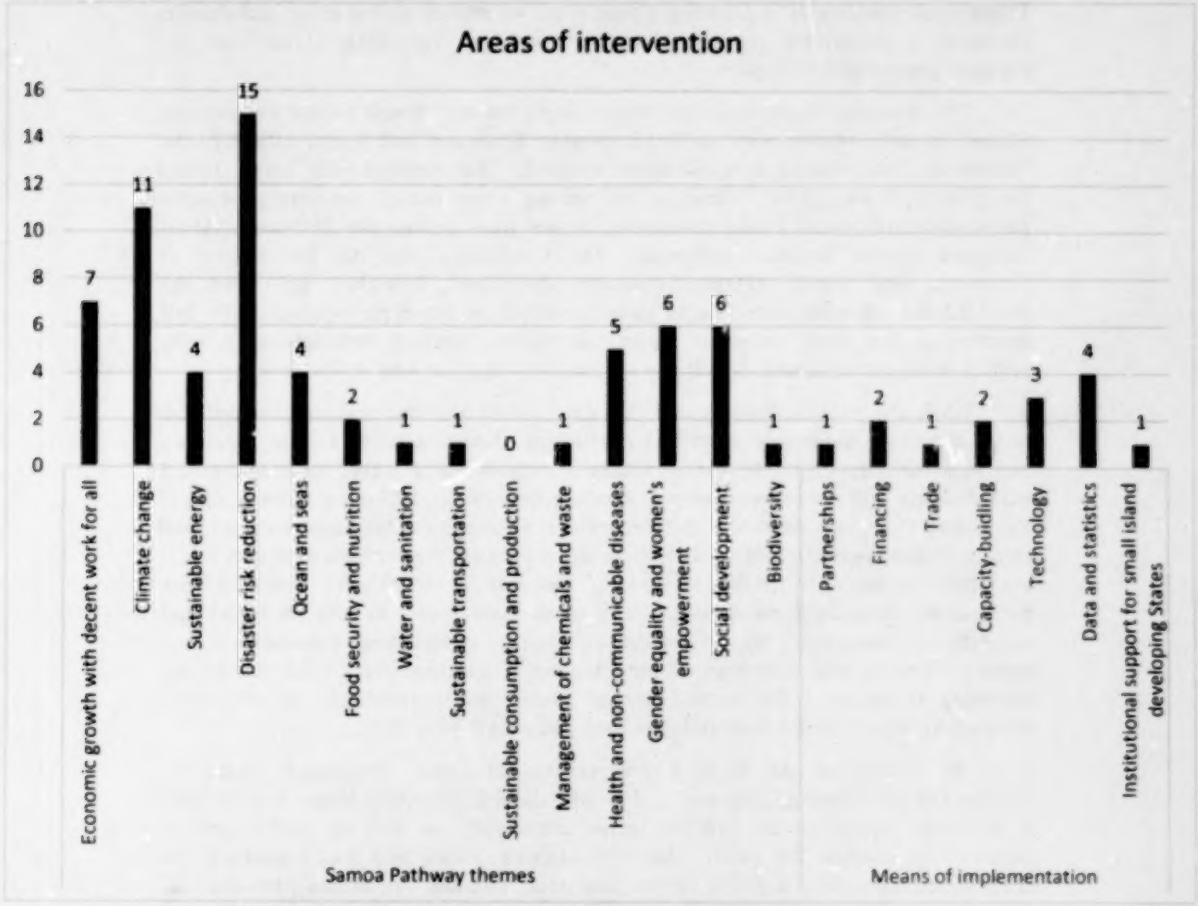
[1] A/CONF.223/10, chap. I, resolution 1.

[2] Inputs were received from the Division for Public Administration and Development Management, the Population Division and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat; the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR); the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); the International Trade Centre (ITC); the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; the International Monetary Fund (IMF); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the International Renewable Energy Agency; the United Nations country team for Asia and the Pacific; the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); the Commonwealth Secretariat; and the Government of Nauru.

4. A simple counting of the thematic areas in which activities were reported for the current period resulted in the figure presented below. It should be noted that when an activity was relevant to more than one theme, it was counted under both themes.

Activities on Samoa Pathway themes and their means of implementation



II. Implementation of the Samoa Pathway

5. The present section elaborates the various activities and initiatives undertaken during the reporting period on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway and addresses the issues set out in General Assembly resolution 71/255.

A. Partnerships for small island developing States

6. Cooperation and partnerships are not new concepts at the United Nations, however, the way partnerships have been leveraged to facilitate the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals in small island developing States reflects a shift that could offer a model for multilateral development efforts. The sentiments highlighted in paragraph 3 of resolution 71/225 are addressed below. In 2015, pursuant to paragraph 101 of the Samoa Pathway, the

General Assembly established the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework (see resolution 70/202, para. 11) to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments and to promote the effective and efficient follow-up to existing partnerships for small island developing States, including those launched at the Samoa Conference,[3] and to encourage new, genuine and durable ones for the sustainable development of those States. The Partnership Framework consists of: a Steering Committee; an annual global multi-stakeholder dialogue, a partnership reporting template; and the organizing of national and regional partnership dialogues.

7. The Steering Committee on Partnerships for the Small Island Developing States,[4] in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, has issued a publication entitled: "Partnerships for Small Island Developing States 2016",[5] devoted to, among other things, reviewing selected partnerships for small island developing States from among the 300 partnerships launched at the Samoa Conference. The Committee and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs have also developed, launched and used the standardized reporting template to gather updates on these partnerships. The full description for each progress report, including detailed descriptions of the partnerships, can be found at: http://www.sids2014.org/partnership/reports/.

8. While the publication revealed that most of the assessed partnerships were on track, the most commonly described challenges identified relate to: the adequacy and sustainability of funds; the increased transaction and travel costs associated with distance and remoteness; communication limitations, including Internet access and connectivity; sociocultural differences and sensitivities; language barriers; and certain country-specific political risks, such as change in government and political uncertainties prior to and/or following national elections. As noted in the publication, successful partnerships have often been found to rely on broad and meaningful engagement by all sectors of society, surrounding communities and peoples. Two formal meetings of the Steering Committee were held during the reporting period and the second annual global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue took place on 7 June 2017.

9. The Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States has initiated a series of activities on private sector promotion as well as public-private partnerships models for small island developing States and has continued the operationalization of the SIDS Global Business Network,[6] an online platform and resource hub aiming to improve connections between entities in the national and regional private sectors of small island developing States, global businesses and other relevant stakeholders. The Network contributes to the enhanced exchange of best practices and lessons learned, peer-learning among and between small island developing States and the global community and strengthened collaboration among regional private sector organizations.

10. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has continued to promote its partnership arrangements with more than 17 small island developing States, specifically with the relevant national institutions responsible for

[3] More details on these partnerships including the updates can be found at www.sids2014.org/partnerships.

[4] Co-chaired by Italy and Maldives.

[5] Available from https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2364Publication%202016%20read.pdf.

[6] See https://sidsgbn.org/.

housing or urban/territorial development.[7] Activities under these partnership initiatives were supported by funding from the European Commission, the United States Agency for International Development and the American Red Cross and Cities Alliance. UN-Habitat has direct partnerships with more than 50 cities and maintains partnerships with other relevant urban organizations, including the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management, the Caribbean Planners Association, the Pacific Islands Local Government Association Network and the University of the West Indies.

11. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Pacific Islands Programme contributes to eight of the partnerships announced at the Samoa Conference, namely: the Pacific Partnership for Action on Safe Water and Sanitation; the Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security; the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education; the Protecting Children from Violence, Abuse and Exploitation in the Pacific programme; the Scaling up the Maternal, New-born and Child Health programme in the Pacific; the office of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases in the Pacific; the Pacific Youth Development Framework Partnership; and the Supporting Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the Pacific programme.[8]

12. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to implement and engage in the commitments and partnerships announced at the Samoa Conference. Examples of these include the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership project, the Regional Disaster Resilience in the Pacific Small Island Developing States project, the Pacific Adaptation for Climate Change project, the Pacific Risk Resilience Programme, the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme and the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme.

13. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth, has collaborated with the Pacific Community, the Pacific Youth Council, the Commonwealth Secretariat, UNICEF, UNDP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN-Women on the production of the forthcoming edition of *The State of Pacific Youth*.[9]

14. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has partnered with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute and the Pacific Community on issues in the areas of food and nutrition security, forestry and improved capacities on enhanced production technologies. Examples of these partnerships include Fisheries Conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region through the FAO Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the Global Framework for Climate Services for the Small Island Developing States, the Global Partnership for Oceans, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability.

15. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has continued to implement several partnerships launched during the Samoa Conference, including the Pacific Heritage Hub; Heritage strengthening in the Pacific; Sandwatch — a global observatory of changing environments in small island developing States; Bridging the GAP: Driving partnerships for the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development; and Enhancing South-South cooperation for capacity-building in science.

16. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has collaborated with its partners and stakeholders to overcome the challenges confronting the small island

[7] See http://open.unhabitat.org/project/41120-2384/.

[8] See www.unicef.org/pacificislands/.

[9] See www.unicef.org/pacificislands/State_of_the_Pacific_Youth_Report_web.pdf.

developing States with regard to information and communications technology (ICT) broadband telecommunication services.

17. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued its partnership initiatives with various organizations, including the Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, SIDS DOCK (the Small Island Developing States Sustainable Energy Initiative), the Austrian Development Agency, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and with representatives of the private sector, civil society and academia to advance the capacity of small island developing States to build cooperation with multilateral development financial institutions and international financial institutions and with private sector companies. Examples of these efforts include the establishment of a network of regional sustainable energy centres for small island developing States in the Caribbean, the Pacific, Africa and the Indian Ocean, in cooperation with SIDS DOCK, CARICOM and the Pacific Community.

18. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has ongoing partnerships with small island developing States on global intellectual property databases, indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression, patent landscape reports and the technology and innovation support centres.

19. The International Trade Commission, through funding assistance from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, has implemented, in partnership with Pacific Governments and the private sector, the Pacific region's programme to empower women and girls,[10] which aims to increase income and employment opportunities for women. The Commission has also launched a new partnership with eBay that aims to boosts the capabilities of small and microenterprises in small island developing countries to participate in global digital commerce.

20. The UN-Women Caribbean Multi-Country Office has signed a memorandum of understanding with CARICOM to collaborate on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Samoa Pathway, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Women's Empowerment Principles. The memorandum of understanding seeks to enhance data, statistics and the analysis of the gender dimensions across the Caribbean region and to deepen the capacities of CARICOM members to implement international, regional and national commitments to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

21. The Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has focused its efforts on strengthening regional humanitarian coordination/cooperation and preparedness in the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific region.

22. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has continued to implement its global project on "Migration, environment and climate change: evidence for policy", a commitment that includes four small island developing States (the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mauritius and Papua New Guinea), and has focused on the question of vulnerabilities, climate and migration.

23. Nauru has reported that its Energy Road Map 2014-2020[11] was developed and adopted with the assistance of development partners, including the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative of the International Renewable Energy Agency. UNDP has supported the Government of Nauru by mapping government sector priorities to

[10] See http://dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific/development-assistance/pages/gender-equality-pacific-regional.aspx.

[11] See http://prdrse4all.spc.int/system/files/second_draft_nauru_energy_road_map_v6_0.pdf.

Sustainable Development Goal targets and assessing baseline national data and mapping to Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Furthermore, the Nauru Ridge to Reef project has targets to preserve biodiversity and ecosystem services, strengthen climate resilience and improve livelihoods.

B. Implementation and support for small island developing States

24. The present section addresses the issues contained in paragraphs 4, 7 and 9 to 12 of General Assembly resolution 71/225.

1. Addressing the vulnerabilities and priorities of small island developing States

25. Activities and solutions aimed at addressing the vulnerabilities and priorities of small island developing States as related to paragraph 4 of resolution 71/225 are described below.

26. Concerns about the consequences of environmental change continue to ascend to the top of the international agenda, bringing in their wake renewed attention to the complex interrelationships between population, environment and development. In recognition of this fact, during the reporting period the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has issued United Nations wall chart on population, environment and development in small island developing States, including several demographic and selected economic and environmental indicators. The Division publishes these data and the wall chart every two years in the publication *World Population Prospects*.[12]

27. The Small Island Developing States Unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, under the ninth tranche of the Development Account, has been implementing a project aimed at providing support for small island developing States in monitoring the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and assessing country performance in strengthening resilience for achieving sustainable development. The project, which is being executed in seven small island States, seeks to train participating States on the development of a vulnerability and country resilience profile. The profile provides a numerical score on a scale of 1 to 5 to assess the extent of vulnerabilities and resilience. The project comes to an end in December 2017. The Department, also through the Unit, in collaboration with the World Bank, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, organized an event for small island developing States disaster risks resilience practitioners on the margins of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, in Cancun, Mexico, in June 2017. Building on the two earlier events organized by the World Bank, the participants in the event from small island developing States shared experiences and lessons learned and built networks.[13]

28. At the request of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States facilitated a dialogue between members of the Bureau of the Alliance of Small Island States and IMF, in Washington, D.C, in October 2016 that highlighted the work of IMF on promoting resilience in small island developing States, particularly in the areas of natural disasters and climate change. In November 2016, the Office participated in a

[12] Available from https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/.

[13] See http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/policies/v.php?id=53439.

workshop organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna to support the development of an interregional technical cooperation project for small island developing States. The project seeks to demonstrate how a number of sustainable development challenges in the areas of marine environment, cancer and food and nutrition security can be addressed using nuclear technology. The Office also participated in the World Bank-led Small States Forum, a platform for sharing best practices, advocating and exploring new solutions and fostering partnerships, in support of a more coherent international response to the special development challenges of small States, most of which are small island developing States.

29. The activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) included intergovernmental expert meetings on the implications of climate change on maritime transport, in particular, on the need to adapt the maritime sector to its adverse effects. Other relevant work included technical support for Caribbean small island developing States through a project funded under the ninth tranche of the Development Account that addresses the impacts of climate change on coastal transport infrastructure. The project, implemented over the 2015-2017 period, aims to strengthen the capacity of policymakers, transport planners and transport infrastructure managers to, among other things, understand the impacts of climate change on coastal transport infrastructure — in particular seaports and airports — and take appropriate adaptation response measures.

30. UN-Habitat has continued to implement at its Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, a global project funded by the European Commission.[14] Twelve small island developing States participated in this project, which aims to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholders working together to improve the living conditions in slums and the sustainability of the cities through policy analysis, citywide slum upgrading, resource mobilization strategy development and participatory project implementation.

31. UNISDR has provided support to the Governments of Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau in developing loss accounting systems as a means of attaining commitments on disaster risk reduction and in support of risk-informed development. The Office also convened a training of trainers workshop for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Mauritius in June 2017.

32. The Sustainable Development and Disasters Unit of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has developed a comprehensive training course on the ECLAC disaster assessment methodology, which enables countries to undertake damage assessments following a disaster, and to advance awareness of the importance of identifying and reducing existing and new social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Two training sessions on the Disaster Assessment Methodology were conducted in early 2017 to support small island developing States in the Caribbean region.

33. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in collaboration with ILO and UNDP, has been implementing a European Union-funded climate change project that supports the development of migration/labour policies and climate change strategies. ESCAP has also organized workshops and trainings in 2016/2017, involving participants from small island developing States in the Pacific, on strengthening multi-hazard risk assessment and early warning systems and disaster resilient agriculture, as well as activities on testing and establishing biogas technology in selected countries, providing support for establishing national disabilities policies in small island developing States in the region and strengthening national capacities to produce environmental data and statistics.

[14] See https://unhabitat.org/urban-initiatives/initiatives-programmes/participatory-slum-upgrading/.

34. UNICEF has implemented its country and multi-country programmes for small island developing States covering a wide range of issues affecting children and their caregivers, such as education, nutrition, water and sanitation and health. With a budget of $79,661,714, the programme covers 14 small island developing States. The Eastern Caribbean multi-country programme covers eight States with a budget of $31 million. Across the small island developing States, UNICEF has also paid particular attention to resilience-building and disaster risk management and reduction that address the impacts of environment and climate change on children.

35. UNDP has an extensive work programme spanning several thematic areas of the Samoa Pathway and broader efforts of the United Nations system on partnerships, institutional support to small island developing States and monitoring and accountability. UNDP is an active member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, which seeks to raise awareness and expand the evidential base for a political conversation on "fit for purpose" financing for small island developing States. In the area of disaster risk reduction, a pilot initiative is being implemented to assess risk in urban areas. Initiatives in the Pacific include the Pacific Risk Resilience programme, the Regional Disaster Resilience in the Pacific programme, the Ridge-to-Reef programme and the Governance programme.

36. In terms of expenditure, in 2016, UNDP spent a total of $210.6 million in small island developing States, of which $43.6 million went to States in the African, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea regions; $50.5 million went to the small island developing States in the Pacific and $112.5 went to States in the Caribbean. A total of $4 million was spent on regional and global initiatives and activities. The table below presents the expenditure of UNDP in 2016 on the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, as identified in the Samoa Pathway.

Expenditure of the United Nations Development Programme on priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway 2016

(Millions of United States dollars)

Priorities identified in the Samoa Pathway	*Expenditure*
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth	26.2
Climate change	35.3
Sustainable energy	1.5
Disaster risk reduction	16.7
Oceans and seas, water and sanitation, biodiversity	9 8
Waste management	9.3
Health	9.6
Gender equality	1.3
Social development	49.8
Means of implementation (including partnerships and institutional support)	10.1
Not specified (including governance)	26.8
Multi-outcome	14.2
Total expenditure	**210.6**

Source: Craig Hawke, "The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in small island developing States: presentation on UNDP support on voluntary national reviews in small island developing States", presented at a side event on small island developing States on the margins of the high-level political forum (13 July 2017).

37. UNFPA has provided support to the Caribbean and small island developing States in the Pacific region in drafting policies on sexual and reproductive health and domestic violence, assisted African small island developing States in formulating a report on the capacity assessment of the disaster reduction initiative and, as part of its minimum initial service package, provided support for the training of reproductive health service providers to deliver life-saving services to women and girls in emergency situations. In addition, UNFPA continued to provide support for the efforts of small island developing States to address limitations with respect to data capacities for population census and the development of population policies and programmes geared towards reducing health, socioeconomic and demographic inequalities.

38. The activities of FAO included: a project to assist small island developing States in integrating climate change considerations into the agricultural sectors and integrating agricultural considerations into the nationally determined contributions; the conduct of national workshops on the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; [15] the provision of technical and financial support to small island developing States for aquaculture, as part of a movement towards blue growth initiatives; the provision of support for global processes on threatened species and biodiversity; and the formulation of a regional programme for food and nutrition security for small island developing States in the Indian Ocean.

39. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has continued to advance the implementation of its Resilience Pathways model, facilitating the integration of resilience planning for small island developing States across multiple sectors of their hard and soft infrastructure. The model represents a unique approach to addressing resilience within the context of all major global frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

40. ITU has implemented a number of projects and programmes to increase access to information and communications technology (ICT) and its use in small island developing States. Emphasis was placed on achieving universal access to telecommunications services, improved emergency telecommunications, the development of policies on ICT and appropriate regulations and legislation on ICT, particularly in the liberalization of the telecommunications sector and broadband development. ITU continued to assist the national computer incident response teams in Barbados and Jamaica. The teams work to strengthen cybersecurity by detecting threats and managing a timely response to cyberattacks.

41. UNESCO has adopted a SIDS action plan within its unique multidisciplinary expertise in natural sciences, culture, education, social sciences, communications and information. Developed in consultation with small island developing States, the plan contains key actions, plans, strategies and targets in line with the priorities set in the Samoa Pathway. Other initiatives include disaster risk reduction, building coastal and ocean resilience, reducing social vulnerabilities and increasing connectivity in times of crisis.

42. UNIDO focused on developing sustainable and affordable energy sources in small island developing States, expanding investment opportunities, developing small and medium-sized enterprises, strengthening institutional capacity-building and boosting industrial competitiveness. Its technical cooperation activities gave due prominence to gender mainstreaming and youth entrepreneurship/employment by ensuring their participation in various industrial sectors and providing capacity-

[15] The Agreement came into effect in July 2016.

building, education and training. Examples of specific technical cooperation include the development of an entrepreneurship curriculum programme for secondary schools in Cabo Verde and support for the implementation in Comoros of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

43. The WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Centres have provided innovators in small island developing States with access to locally based, high-quality technological information and related services, helping them to create, protect and manage their intellectual property rights. WIPO has provided support for the efforts of Caribbean small island developing States to develop national intellectual property strategies that encourage and facilitate the effective creation, development, management and protection of intellectual property at the national level. This support contributes the establishment and consolidation of an environment for innovation. WIPO has also been addressing the sustainability of agribusiness in Caribbean small island developing States in an effort to stimulate the development of private enterprises in the agriculture sector through the provision of training to producers and other agricultural sector businesses, enhance their skills set and increase knowledge of the importance of the intellectual property system to the sector's development. The WIPO GREEN interactive marketplace project recognizes the need to access environmentally sound technologies to provide solutions to the challenges posed by sustainable development.

44. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has continued to implement its existing projects/programmes and resources, including the Climate Risk Early Warning Systems initiative, coastal inundation forecasting demonstration projects, a programme for implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services at the regional and national levels, a programme for building regional climate capacity in the Caribbean and a project on "Climate services to reduce vulnerability in Haiti". These initiatives provide support to small island developing States to increase their resilience to weather and climate-related events. Leveraging these projects allows for the coordination of investments and a more integrated planning around early warning systems.

45. Information and communications technologies assist small island developing States in increasing regional integration, exploiting niche products and services, ratifying trade agreements, improving trade facilitation and building the productive capacity of the private sector and policymakers to take advantage of trade opportunities. The E-solutions programme helps firms and businesses to better understand e-commerce and overcome barriers to selling goods and services on the Internet.

46. The Caribbean Office of UN-Women, in collaboration with UNICEF, has implemented a gender and child responsive approach to social protection programmes, one output of which was the development of the social protection bill in Antigua and Barbuda. The bill seeks to upgrade and modernize the legislative framework for social protection in that country, in accordance with the normative framework of human rights principles.

47. A technical assistance plan (2018-2021) for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions was welcomed at the meetings of the respective Conferences of the Parties, which were held back to back from 24 April to 5 May 2017. One of the guiding principles of the plan is the facilitation of the mobilization and leveraging of financial, technical and technological resources and expertise in support of developing country parties, including small island developing States.

48. The activities of the United Nations country team in the Pacific region are guided by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the region for

2013-2017. Signed by the Governments of 14 small island developing States in the Pacific, the Framework outlines the collective response of the United Nations system to the development challenges and national priorities of those States in five outcome areas, namely: environmental management, climate change and disaster risk management; gender equality; inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction; basic services (health and education); and governance and human rights. Alignment of the United Nations priorities in these areas has resulted in the creation of the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council, a mechanism that allows the private sector to regularly engage with partners and Governments on ways to reduce risks from natural hazards and to prepare and respond to disasters.

49. The engagement of IMF with small island developing States includes surveillance, programme support and capacity-development activities. It is guided by a guidance note (updated in 2017) that highlights the unique economic characteristics and constraints confronting those States and provides operational guidance on the engagement of the Fund. IMF has also implemented several pilot studies in small island developing States on cross-cutting or emerging issues, targeting specific areas of need in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. To meet the financing needs of small States, the IMF Board has approved a 50 per cent increase in access limits to fund concessional resources and an increase in the annual access limits of the Rapid Credit Facility and the Rapid Financing Instrument, from 37.5 per cent to 60 per cent of new quotas for members facing severe disasters where the assessed damage is equivalent to or exceeds 20 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). The Fund's capacity development and technical assistance support to small developing island States remains significant.

50. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has focused its work on environmental and climate factors and their adverse impacts on migration. This includes support to a number of small island developing States in the Pacific for the: development of national protection-centred policy frameworks for displaced and host communities; development of model action plans to address migration; capacity-building for communities affected by climate change; development of disaster risk reduction activities; and field research to support the production of national reports on climate change vulnerabilities and migration.

51. The Commonwealth Secretariat has been examining the feasibility of using vulnerability as a criterion for accessing concessional financing, piloting a study in the Caribbean and Pacific regions to examine whether current development strategies set those regions on a path to achieving sustainability and implementing a resilience profiling project entitled "Building the resilience of small States."

52. The International Renewable Energy Agency has provided knowledge tools, services and a platform for cooperation (the Lighthouses Initiative) to facilitate the planning and implementation of renewable energy solutions in small island developing States. The initiative has 36 such States as members. It supports resource assessments, grid integration studies, energy transition plans and capacity-building activities across all small island developing States. Integral to the initiative is Quickscan, a simple but robust methodology to assess the readiness of small island developing States to deploy renewables within the power sector and "Guidelines on grid-related issues" relating to the integration of variable renewables into the grid.

53. The activities undertaken by the Government of Nauru include the implementation of the household scheme, entitled "Strengthening domestic resource mobilization", through broadening the government revenue base and tax reforms, ensuring fiscal sustainability by establishing and investing in the Nauru

intergenerational trust fund, investing in education infrastructure, addressing climate change, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and setting renewable energy targets.

2. Mainstreaming of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda into development and cooperation frameworks

54. The present subsection highlights activities and initiatives aimed at integrating or mainstreaming the Samoa Pathway and 2030 Agenda into national and regional development policies and cooperation frameworks, in response to paragraphs 9 to 12 of General Assembly resolution 71/225.

55. UNCTAD has mainstreamed the Samoa Pathway into its work on transport and trade logistics and across its three pillars of work, including research and analysis, technical assistance and capacity-building as well as consensus-building activities. A module entitled "Transitioning to low carbon shipping — sustainable sea transport solutions for SIDS: Pacific Island countries case studies" was developed to provide information on best practices and lessons learned for policymakers seeking to transition their sea transport to low carbon options.

56. The New Urban Agenda, which, among other things, addresses the urban development challenges of small island developing States, was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016 (see General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex).

57. UNISDR continued its work supporting the efforts of small island developing States to mainstream the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (resolution 69/283, annex II) at the national level through the development of strategies and plans for disaster risk reduction and the formulation of the Sendai Framework indicators. At the subregional level, strategies, such as the Regional Comprehensive Management Strategy and Programming Framework 2014-2024 for the Caribbean region, were developed and aligned with the priorities and global targets set in the Sendai Framework.

58. Support provided by ESCAP to small island developing States in the Pacific is driven by its resolution 71/4 entitled: "Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway", which, among other things, requested the Commission to assist those States in enhancing national capacities and institutions, voice and representation in regional and global processes and to monitor the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. ESCAP also participates in the development of United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022, which uses 36 Sustainable Development Goals indicators as measures for its success.

59. The efforts of ECLAC towards the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals is carried out through the Technical Advisory Committee of its Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. In February 2017, in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation, ECLAC hosted a regional workshop to explore issues and strategies for mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into the policy and planning frameworks for Caribbean small island developing States. ECLAC supports the implementation through direct technical cooperation and the facilitation of dialogue for prioritizing and monitoring progress towards implementation.

60. The UNICEF multi-country programmes contribute to aspects of the Samoa Pathway related to children. These programmes contain integrated results

frameworks with specific indicators, baselines, targets and progress indicators that are reported on annually. In developing country programmes, UNICEF consults national and regional bodies and other stakeholders to ensure alignment with their priorities as well as the global agenda on small island development States and the Sustainable Development Goals.

61. The work of UNDP is guided by its strategic plan for 2014-2017, which recognizes the special case for the development of small island developing States and the need for tailored development solutions. A new strategic plan (for 2018-2021) is currently under development. At the regional level, UNDP works closely with regional organizations to localize the Sustainable Development Goals. The UNDP subregional programme document 2018-2022 is being developed and will focus on a number of priority areas of the Samoa Pathway. At the national level, UNDP is supporting the efforts of small island developing States in the Pacific in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and in ensuring a greater alignment between their national development plans and budgets and the targets set out in the Goals.

62. The UNFPA subregional programme document (2017-2021) for the Caribbean region is based on the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework and guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, the Samoa Pathway and the CARICOM strategic plan for 2015-2019. UNFPA also supported some small island developing States members in the Pacific region to align their respective national development plans with the Samoa Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals.

63. FAO launched the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States at the fortieth session of its General Conference in July 2017. The invitation for FAO to facilitate the formulation of the Global Action Programme was called for in paragraph 61 of the Samoa Pathway. Efforts towards its formulation were welcomed by the General Assembly in paragraph 7 of its resolution 71/225. As part of its continued efforts to implement the Programme, FAO has developed an interregional initiative on small island developing States, with inputs from regional offices.

64. ITU has integrated the Samoa Pathway into all its programmes and activities, while UNESCO has established a process to accompany the development and the implementation of its SIDS Action Plan for the sustainable development of small island developing States, at the local, national and regional levels, in cooperation with its worldwide networks and partners.

65. The long-term strategy of UNIDO of inclusive and sustainable industrial development aims to harness the full potential of industry's contribution to the achievement of sustainable development and lasting prosperity for all. UNIDO is determined to provide assistance to the Governments of small island developing States, as these countries are clearly mentioned in its programme and budget document as well as the medium-term programme framework.

66. WMO projects address challenges related to extreme weather, climate and water events and seek to provide small island developing States with the capacity and equipment necessary to successfully forecast the events and issue impact-based warnings that allow the public to act or react accordingly. Efforts are being made to engage more in existing coordination mechanisms at the country level to enable the alignment of plans of national meteorological and hydrological services with the United Nations and national strategic frameworks.

67. The programme of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), as with other United Nations system

agencies operating in the Pacific, is directly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. It ensures that all indicators of the results framework of the new United Nations Pacific Strategy (2018-2022) and the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework are aligned with the Goals and are being monitored by the Pacific island countries and territories themselves. The UN-Women Caribbean Multi-Country Office has collaborated with the CARICOM statistics programme to develop gender equality indicators for small island developing States in the Caribbean that would allow them to report on the Samoa Pathway, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

68. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2013-2017 for the Pacific region, which is a regional multi-country framework for United Nations assistance to Member States in the Pacific, is based on the regional and national development priorities of the small island developing States in the region. The Framework is complemented by the Pacific United Nations Development Assistance Framework multi-country action plan 2013-2017, the operational plan for implementing 14 individual country-specific output level results matrices that are tailored to each country's priorities. The Development Assistance Framework is broadly aligned with regional priorities as defined in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and its results framework resonates strongly with the Samoa Pathway and represents genuine and durable partnerships, mainly at the country level.

69. The work of OCHA in the Asia-Pacific region on emergency preparedness and policy engagement in disaster risks resilience is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework and the regional strategy adopted at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in New Delhi in 2016. The IOM network of country offices and sub-offices in a number of small island developing States is responsible for analysing national migration issues and emerging trends and to plan, develop and implement projects and programmes. The Samoa Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals are fully mainstreamed into these plans, programmes and projects.

70. The new strategic plan 2017/18-2020/21 of the Commonwealth Secretariat targets results that are aligned to the achievement of 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that programmes and the provision of technical assistance strengthen the national plans of member States to achieve their Sustainable Development Goal priorities through more evidence-based and participatory planning, monitoring and evaluations. The plan also targets greater national and regional programming coherence, partnerships and networks. The work programme of the International Renewable Energy Agency for 2016-2017 as a whole is aligned with Goal 7, ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and the 2030 Agenda.

71. The Government of Nauru, with support from UNDP, has planned a nationwide consultation in 2017 with key stakeholders to heighten awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals and to localize and mainstream the 2030 Agenda into national planning and budget processes. At the regional level, the regional Sustainable Development Goal road map is being developed to jointly monitor progress on the Goals, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and it is expected that it will be endorsed by the leaders of the Pacific Island Forum in September 2017.

C. Linking the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda to global processes

72. The following paragraphs examine how the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, as set out in the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, were addressed or given due consideration in the relevant major United Nations conferences and processes during the reporting period, and respond to the sentiments echoed in paragraphs 5, 11 and 14 of General Assembly resolution 71/225.

73. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs provided supported the Government of the Bahamas in hosting a symposium entitled "Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Samoa Pathway in small island developing States: equipping public institutions and mobilizing partnerships", in Nassau in February 2017.[16] The seminar focused on how small island developing States are organizing their respective government institutions to further support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Department also provided support to the Caribbean small island developing States in the development of a preliminary core set of indicators from among the tier I/II Sustainable Development Goal indicators approved by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. In an effort to assist small island developing States in preparing for the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the Ocean Conference), the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, organized a Small Islands Developing States Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (the Ocean Conference) in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in March 2017,[17] providing those States with a space to discuss and share ideas on how to advance their priorities at the Ocean Conference.

74. The Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States undertook a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2016,[18] at which a number of issues relevant to small island developing States, including vulnerability to climate change and graduation from the list of least developed countries, were addressed. In October 2016, during Habitat III, the Office, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Alliance of Small Island States organized a high-level meeting on urban resilience and sustainable urban development in small island developing States to address the diversity of urban issues and to provide guidance on the best ways small island developing States can enhance the resilience and sustainability of their human settlements.

75. In November 2016 in Mauritius, UNISDR hosted the sixth Africa Regional Platform and the fifth high-level meeting on disaster risk reduction, which resulted in the formulation of the programme of action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2-15-2030 in Africa.[19] A key highlight of

[16] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?page=view&nr=2116&type=13&menu=1634.
[17] See www.unosd.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=78&menu=177.
[18] See http://unohrlls.org/midterm-review-ipoa.
[19] See www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/49455; and www.preventionweb.net/files/49455.

the conference was a special session on tsunami awareness. The annual Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management was held in Suva, in October 2016. The outcome statement of the meeting reaffirmed the political commitment of the small island developing States of the Pacific to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and its related regional Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, with countries pledging to step up and further integrate their efforts to strengthen disaster resilience.

76. UN-Habitat is the focal point of the United Nations system for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of Habitat III (see General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex). The Agenda makes specific reference to small island developing States in paragraphs 6, 19, 64, and 114 (c). Particular attention is given to addressing the unique and emerging urban development challenges confronting these States.

77. The subregional headquarters of ECLAC in the Caribbean continued to advocate the challenges and priorities of small island developing States in regional meetings and processes, such as in the Caribbean Development Round Table and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee. These efforts represent the continued commitment of ECLAC to providing a mechanism that facilitates the cross-fertilization of ideas in support of the implementation and mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean region.

78. UNFPA provided support to the efforts of the Caribbean small island developing States to hold subregional consultations in Jamaica, within the framework of the Montevideo Consensus and the Sustainable Development Goals, which centred on population and development issues. FAO conducted a series of consultations, within which small island developing States partners and stakeholders contributed inputs to ensure that the consultative process for the formulation of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States was as inclusive as possible and that each partner could contribute to its implementation based on its comparative advantage. UNESCO considers the issues related to small island developing States to be a priority, and all their relevant internal processes have been designed to include such issues. In addition, the sustainable development of small island developing States was identified as a priority area in strategic documents approved by the UNESCO Governing Council (medium-term strategy, programme and budget, action plan, climate change strategy, etc.). Those States have been given a priority status in all the programme sectors of the Organization, wherever possible.

79. The contribution of UNIDO to shaping global discussions on small island developing States is carried out through its convening function of the various global forums under its auspices, namely, the UNIDO General Conference, the annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, and the Vienna Energy Forum. The WIPO Development Agenda places emphasis on empowering and developing the capacity of the least developed countries and small island developing States to use the intellectual property system as a contributing factor in building their economies.

80. WIPO provided funding support to a number of small island developing States in the Pacific to enable their participation in its Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. UN-Women continued to prioritize the issues and concerns of small island developing States in its thematic or regional conferences and processes while the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions included the concerns and priorities of those States in their decision-making processes.

81. The agencies members of the United Nations country team in the Pacific actively supported the substantive inclusion of the voices of Pacific nations in global debates and processes, including, among others, supporting climate-affected small island developing States in the Pacific in lead-up preparations for the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the coordination of the Pacific regional consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and the finalization and roll-out of the Sustainable Development Goals. The team, in collaboration with the Pacific Ocean Alliance and the Pacific Islands Forum and other relevant regional organizations, also supported the small island developing States in the Pacific in the regional consultations and preparations leading up to the Ocean Conference.

82. OCHA provides support to representatives of the small island developing States in the Pacific, including national disaster managers, to attend regional and subregional meetings, events and processes. WMO considers small island developing States as one of its main priorities and integrates their interests and issues into the agenda of their organized events and conferences, when appropriate. A large percentage of new projects of WMO are either focused on those States or have a related component. IMF provides venues and opportunities, such as high-level events at its annual and spring meeting for the small island developing States to discuss the initiatives of the Fund among themselves, with the IMF management and staff and other stakeholders. The Fund also has a standing working group on small island developing States that discusses relevant policy issues and best practices across departments and maintains a small island developing States knowledge exchange website.

83. IOM conferences, meetings and processes linked to climate and the environment prominently feature the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States. Many of the Organization's newest member States are small island developing States with a specific interest in climate vulnerabilities and migration. The Commonwealth Secretariat hosts the annual Global Biennial Conference on Small States, at which key stakeholders from its member States and beyond share good practices and discuss the priorities and plans of action of small States. The Commonwealth also has a dedicated work programme on small States in the broad areas of resilience-building, policy research, capacity-building and global advocacy.

III. Monitoring and follow-up

84. In paragraphs 122 and 123 of the Samoa Pathway, world leaders called upon the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies to monitor the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway, including through the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions, and recalled that the Assembly and the Council, as well as the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under their auspices, would devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments. The present section provides an account of the monitoring, review and follow-up activities undertaken during the reporting period.

A. High-level political forum on sustainable development 2017

85. In response to paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 71/225, session nine of the thematic review segment of the high-level political forum in 2017 was devoted entirely to the consideration of issues related to small island developing States. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in those States, commitment is required at the highest political level, supported by broad political consultation and collaboration across traditional alignments. Transformational leadership that can strategically guide all sectors must be at the core. National mainstreaming of the Samoa Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals, inclusive with midterm frameworks and budgets, is critical to fostering national ownership of the 2030 Agenda and ensuring positive synergies. Building capacity across all sectors, especially regarding the collection and use of data, is necessary, as is public information sharing to enhance transparency and accountability and to build trust. This was illustrated also through intervention by the Minister of Labour and Social Security of Jamaica on the "Vision 2030 Jamaica" website (www.vision2030.gov.jm/). The burden and threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases remain a serious global concern, constituting one of the major challenges for small island developing States in the twenty-first century. As an example of successful implementation of a request made under the Samoa Pathway, FAO reported at the meeting on the content of the recently launched Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States. The Programme is a framework within which small island developing States and their development partners can work to design and implement more coherent actions to promote food security and nutrition. In addition, as a collaborative initiative between small island developing States, the Government of Singapore and the Small Islands Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs co-hosted a special lunch event for small island developing States to showcase the existing regional and global support of the United Nations system in preparing for their voluntary national reviews.

B. Voluntary national reviews

86. Two small island developing States, Belize and Maldives, volunteered to undertake national reviews during the high-level political forum in 2017. Belize[20] has made significant strides in transitioning from the Millennium Development Goals. "Horizon 2030: national development framework for Belize 2010-2030" now guides long-term development planning. The strategic priorities for Belize by 2030 include democratic governance for effective public administration and sustainable development, education, economic resilience and a healthy citizenry and environment. Building on this long-term development plan and to guide the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Belize adopted the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2020. This is an integrated, systematic approach based on the principles of sustainable development towards a proactive role for the State, accessing global markets and innovative social policy implementation.

87. Like most small island developing States, Maldives [21] faces significant economic, social and environmental challenges. These are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and their vulnerability to both internal and external shocks. In addition, geographic insularity, dispersed population and high transaction costs results in limited potential for economies of scale. Despite these challenges,

[20] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=483&menu=3170.

[21] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=374&menu=3170.

the country has made significant progress in areas of eradicating extreme poverty, achieving universal education and health care and protecting terrestrial and marine biodiversity. However, additional effort is needed in areas such as empowering women, strengthening mechanisms of governance and justice, minimizing economic disparity and sustainable consumption and production in order to ensure that no Maldivian is left behind.

C. Secretariat coordination

88. In paragraph 120 of the Samoa Pathway, world leaders requested the Secretary-General to ensure, among other things, that: (a) the Small Islands Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continues, pursuant to its support and advisory services mandate, to analyse and report on the situation of small island developing States; and (b) that the Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, pursuant to its advocacy mandate, ensures the mainstreaming of the Samoa Pathway and issues related to small island developing States into the work of the United Nations system and enhances the coherence of the issues of those States in United Nations processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, and continues to mobilize international support and resources to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by small island developing States.

89. Since the last reporting period, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative of Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States have taken concrete steps to institutionalize their collaboration. Regular lines of communication at the director's level have been established to ensure better coordination and planning of work in support of small island developing States. An "alternate chairing" arrangement of the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States has been adopted and joint preparation of side events at global conferences are now regularly undertaken. This approach has proven successful, as exemplified at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Habitat III and the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The two Units have also improved collaboration and co-financing of activities developed in support of small island developing States, such as the conference on public-private partnerships for small islands, held in Aruba in March 2017, and the Small Islands Developing States Preparatory Meeting for the Ocean Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 14. The Department and the Office continued to render joint support to the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States. The issuance of joint invitations co-signed by the heads of the Department and the Office when organizing events calling for the participation of those States has improved transparency in their communication with Member States.

IV. Conclusion

90. The United Nations system and other related entities and organizations have been making progress in supporting the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States. They have also been strengthening linkages between their global processes and the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, work still remains to be done.

91. Small island developing States are advancing their implementation plans and have been adapting the Sustainable Development Goal targets to their national development plans and policies. Those States are encouraged to undertake voluntary

national reviews as a means of assessing progress and identifying gaps in implementation. At the same time, all opportunities for synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway should be exploited to derive maximum benefits in the implementation of these two agendas.